The Washington Star
A-33 SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1975

RFK Role in Plot On Castro Probed

By Nicholas M. Horrock
New York Times News Service

The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence is investigating "several new leads" on whether Robert F. Kennedy had a role while he was attorney general in ordering a plot by the CIA to kill Premier Fidel Castro of Cuba, sources familiar with the investigation said yesterday.

The leads were reported to have come from two documents discovered recently in the files of the Justice Department and one document unearthed in White House records. One source who has seen the material said the documents raised questions that "should be followed up."

The committee has already established that the CIA had a formalized mechanism for assassinating foreign leaders and had plotted against Castro and Premier Patrice Lumumba of the Congo. But it has been unable to establish whether these operations were authorized by either President Dwight D. Eisenhower or President John F. Kennedy.

In the Kennedy administration, the President's brother Robert served as a liaison with the CIA on some intelligence activities. The Senate committee received earlier this year evidence that Robert Kennedy knew as early as 1961 that the CIA was dealing with the Mafia on a covert operation. The agency used Mafia figures in its plot against Castro.

THE COMMITTEE also has testimony from Maj. Gen. Edward G. Lansdale, a retired Air Force officer who had been a CIA operative, that he got orders for an effort to overthrow Castro after the Bay of Pigs directly from Robert Kennedy. Lansdale said, however, that Robert Kennedy had never specifically ordered him to kill Castro.

Several Republicans, the most vocal of them being Sen. Barry Goldwater of Arizona, have said that the Democratic majority is attempting to write a final report that "soft-pedals" the Kennedy role.

The investigation of the new leads is reported to be under the direction of Curt Smothers, the minority counsel.

This new avenue of inquiry was reported to be one of the factors that has delayed the final adoption and publication of a 300-page report on assassination plots.

Another factor, one source said, is that the committee wants to interrogate Dr. Sidney Gottlieb, a former chief of the CIA's technical services division, on the division's role in the preparation of poisons and other assassination weapons.

Gottlieb has refused to answer questions by the committee on the constitutional ground that the answers might incriminate him. The committee has voted to give him immunity, but the technical processing of the immunity could take until Oct. 24, one source said.

The Washington Star
A-33 SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1975

RFK Role in Plot On Castro Probed

By Nicholas M. Horrock
New York Times News Service

The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence is investigating "several new leads" on whether Robert F. Kennedy had a role while he was attorney general in ordering a plot by the CIA to kill Premier Fidel Castro of Cuba, sources familiar with the investigation said yesterday.

The leads were reported to have come from two documents discovered recently in the files of the Justice Department and one document unearthed in White House records. One source who has seen the material said the documents raised questions that "should be followed up."

The committee has already established that the CIA had a formalized mechanism for assassinating foreign leaders and had plotted against Castro and Premier Patrice Lumumba of the Congo. But it has been unable to establish whether these operations were authorized by either President Dwight D. Eisenhower or President John F. Kennedy.

In the Kennedy administration, the President's brother Robert served as a liaison with the CIA on some intelligence activities. The Senate committee received earlier this year evidence that Robert Kennedy knew as early as 1961 that the CIA was dealing with the Mafia on a covert operation. The agency used Mafia figures in its plot against Castro.

THE COMMITTEE also has testimony from Maj. Gen. Edward G. Lansdale, a retired Air Force officer who had been a CIA operative, that he got orders for an effort to overthrow Castro after the Bay of Pigs directly from Robert Kennedy. Lansdale said, however, that Robert Kennedy had never specifically ordered him to kill Castro.

Several Republicans, the most vocal of them being Sen. Barry Goldwater of Arizona, have said that the Democratic majority is attempting to write a final report that "soft-pedals" the Kennedy role.

The investigation of the new leads is reported to be under the direction of Curt Smothers, the minority counsel.

This new avenue of inquiry was reported to be one of the factors that has delayed the final adoption and publication of a 300-page report on assassination plots.

Another factor, one source said, is that the committee wants to interrogate Dr. Sidney Gottlieb, a former chief of the CIA's technical services division, on the division's role in the preparation of poisons and other assassination weapons.

Gottlieb has refused to answer questions by the committee on the constitutional ground that the answers might incriminate him. The committee has voted to give him immunity, but the technical processing of the immunity could take until Oct. 24, one source said.